

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder present in aggregates of primary particles, wherein

- the titanium dioxide powder has a BET surface of 20 to 200 m<sup>2</sup>/g and
- the half width HW, in nanometers, of the primary particle distribution has values between

HW (nm) = a × BET<sup>f</sup> where a = 670×10<sup>-9</sup> m<sup>3</sup>/g and

-1.3 ≤ f ≤ -1.0

- the proportion of aggregates with a diameter of more than 45 µm is in a range from 0.0001 to 0.05 wt.%, and

wherein the BET surface is in a range from 40 to 60 m<sup>2</sup>/g,

wherein the titanium oxide powder comprises at least 20% rutile.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the 90% spread of the number distribution of the primary particle diameters lies in a range from 5 to 100 nm.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the equivalent circular diameter of the aggregates (ECD) is less than 80 nm.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the mean aggregate area is less than 6500 nm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the mean aggregate circumference is less than 450 nm.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the 90% spread of the number distribution of the primary particles diameters has values from 4 to 25 nm.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the equivalent circular diameter of the aggregates (ECD) is less than 70 nm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the mean aggregate area is less than 6000 nm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim [[7]] 1, wherein the mean aggregate circumference is less than 400 nm.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of aggregates and/or agglomerates with a diameter of more than 45  $\mu\text{m}$  lies in a range from 0.001 to 0.01 wt.%.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein it has a chloride content of less than 0.1 wt.%.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the compacted bulk density has values of 20 to 200 g/l.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): A process for the production of the flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein

- a titanium halide, ~~preferably titanium tetrachloride~~, is vapourised at temperatures of less than 200°C, the vapours are transferred to a mixing chamber by means of a carrier gas with a proportion of steam in a range from 1 to 25 g/m<sup>3</sup>, and
- separately from this, hydrogen, primary air, which may optionally be enriched with oxygen and/or pre-heated, and steam are transferred to the mixing chamber,
- wherein the proportion of steam is in a range from 1 to 25 g/m<sup>3</sup> primary air,

- the lambda value lies in the range from 1 to 9 and the gamma value lies in the range from 1 to 9,  
following which
  - the mixture consisting of the titanium halide vapour, hydrogen, air and steam is ignited in a burner and the flame burns back into a reaction chamber sealed from the ambient air, wherein
    - a vacuum of 1 to 200 mbar exists in the reaction chamber,
    - the exit velocity of the reaction mixture from the mixing chamber to the reaction space lies in a range from 10 to 80 m/sec,
  - in addition secondary air is introduced into the reaction chamber, wherein
    - the ratio of primary air to secondary air is between 10 and 0.5,
  - following which the solid is separated from the gaseous substances, and
  - the solid is then treated with steam.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 16, wherein the steam is introduced together with the air into the mixing chamber.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1 for the heat protection stabilisation of silicones.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): Sunscreen agents comprising a flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A catalyst, a catalyst carrier, a photocatalyst, and an abrasive for the production of dispersions comprising a flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1.

Claim 21 (New): A process according to claim 16, wherein the titanium halide is titanium tetrachloride.

Claim 22 (New): The flame-hydrolytically produced titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the BET surface is in a range from 40 to 49 m<sup>2</sup>/g.